Testing for antiphospholipid antibodies at autopsy

Neil E. I. Langlois · Christopher Berton

Accepted: 24 January 2014 / Published online: 19 February 2014
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We largely agree with the comments of Hudzik et al. [1]. We acknowledge that in clinical practice it is necessary to obtain a positive result on more than one occasion, but this is not practical in the post-mortem situation [2]. Testing for antiphospholipid antibodies maybe more relevant to acute thrombosis and when pulmonary thromboemboli are found [3]. We accept that screening for thrombophilia is generally not advocated in the next of kin of victims of deep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolus [4], but a finding of antiphospholipid antibodies in the deceased could lend further weight for not testing for other predisposing causes in family members. The risk factors for atherosclerosis are multiple and the pathogenesis is not yet fully resolved [5]. Thus, we suggest that the possibility of a contribution from antiphospholipid syndrome should be considered, if only to be excluded.

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N. E. I. Langlois (✉)
Department of Pathology, Forensic Science SA, University of
Adelaide, 21 Divett Place, Adelaide, SA 5000, Australia
e-mail: neil.langlois@sa.gov.au

C. Berton
School of Medicine, University of Adelaide, Frome Road,
Adelaide, SA 5005, Australia